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*Featuring MT's
Exclusive Shortwave
Guide and
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Coverage*

**Blue Ribbon Scanning
at the State Fair!**

**Back to School
Educational Radio in Costa Rica**

**Remnants of the Cold War
DXing the Two Koreas**

MT Reviews the BC2500XLT

**Target For
Terrorism**
*Monitoring the
New York Port Authority*



Monitoring Times

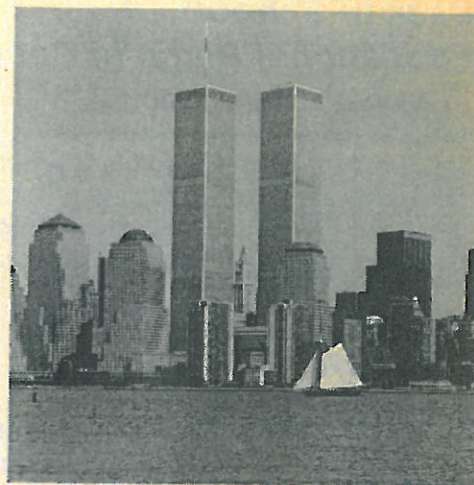
Target for Terrorism — New York's Port Authority

By Bob Kozlarek

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In a 25 mile radius from the Statue of Liberty, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is in charge of all moving traffic—planes, trains, ships and automobiles. So what does that have to do with the bombing of the World Trade Center? The Port Authority owns the Twin Towers. Furthermore, the Authority's responsibility for the flow of traffic makes it a prime target for future terrorist attempts.

In this brief tour (complete with frequencies) of the agencies under the Authority's jurisdiction, the monitor gains an appreciation for the enormous amount of coordination and communications required to keep New York City on the move.



Remnants of the Cold War—DXing the Two Koreas

By Jeff Chanowitz

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Both born of the Korean War, Radio Pyongyang and Radio Korea are still battling the cold war in an attempt to influence the Korean people. Outside of that, their styles have nothing in common. Recent showdowns between the US and North Korea have brought this area of the world back into the public eye. It's a good time to tune in these two voices of a divided people.



Blue Ribbon Scanning at the State Fair

By Allen Cole

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In some places it's called the State Exhibition, and among the harvest of crops and livestock, there is also an exhibition dear to the heart of the scanner listener. Displayed in full view are all sorts of radio communications. The challenge is to find as many as possible within a week, because next year much of it will be new all over again.

COVER: The Statue of Liberty is flanked by the twin towers of the World Trade Center in this view of the Lower Manhattan skyline, courtesy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Remnants of the Cold War DXing the Two Koreas

By Jeff Chanowitz

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The service, called Radio Pyongyang, was born shortly before the outbreak of the Korean War. While initially only broadcasting in Korean, the service quickly expanded to Japanese and English, which was dropped after the war and then was subsequently added in 1960. Although also broadcasting in Russian, Spanish, and Arabic, Korean remains the service's principle language and Korean affairs its main preoccupation.

Radio Pyongyang, along with its associate "Voice of Revolutionary Reunification," broadcasts a stodgy style of propaganda reminiscent of Radio Tirana's broadcasts under communism. Dr. Ralph Klough, an Asian Studies specialist at Johns Hopkins University's school of International Studies who has traveled to North Korea, described it as "a totalitarian state developed on the personality cult centered around Kim Il Sung." North Korean politics has been characterized by the glorification of Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Chong-il. Kim Il Sung, along with his relatives, has ruled North Korea in a Stalinist-style dictatorship since the Korean war and has cut off North Korea from most of the outside world.

The broadcasts, which originate from transmitters in Kanggye, Kunjang, and Pyongyang (100/200/400 kW), have mostly consisted of revolutionary music with news read in a monotonous

style that is oddly inflected in manner. The content, like most of the North Korean media, included intense propaganda relating to writings, sayings, and stories that center around Kim Il Sung. The word "warmongering" is invariably used to describe South Korea and the United States.

Lately, changes in the communist world, along with friendship treaties signed by North and South Korea, and China's recognition of South Korea, have caused North Korea to reach out more to the United States in its attempt to gain diplomatic recognition. According to Dr. Klough, "Its hard line has lessened over the years and the atmosphere seems to be milder than it used to be." He added, "The economy is in very bad shape...They need foreign investment."

The new opening in North Korea may be an advantage to listeners who are seeking to obtain QSLs from Radio Pyongyang, a station which has been known for its inconsistent QSLing policy. The *World Radio and Television Handbook* describes this policy as "not normally verifying." With North Korea's new opening toward the outside world, Radio Pyongyang may be more likely to respond to listeners.

Yet, for the time being, creativity and persistence remain paramount in obtaining QSLs. Ideas, such as enclosing communist newspapers with confirmation reports, have yielded a QSL for some shortwave listeners. Even Gayle Van Horn, *MT's* QSL Corner columnist, has no sure fire way of obtaining a Radio Pyongyang QSL. Van Horn admitted to doing nothing special to get her reception report confirmed and stated that she received a QSL "by a sheer stroke of luck."

Another obstacle to receiving a QSL is related to the propaganda war between the two Koreas, which extends to the reception of listener's mail. The 1993 edition of *Passport to Worldband Radio* reports that some listeners, who have written to Radio Pyongyang, have received what appears to be bogus "black propaganda" from alleged North Korean dissidents at the external service. This literature, mailed from Japan, seems to have originated from South Korea. From such reports, it seems that some letters are not getting to North Korea.

Unlike Radio Korea's reliable response, reports to Radio Pyongyang rarely yield a QSL. The lily of the valley QSL above is the only one in MT's collection.

MONITORING TIMES

While the wall in Berlin has fallen and with it the Eastern bloc and the Soviet Union, the rivalry which marked the cold war era continues a world away on the Korean Peninsula. With United States and South Korean troops facing off against troops of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea across the 38th Parallel, both sides are involved in a war of words. In this battle of propaganda and ideologies, radio plays a key role, making short-wave listeners the real winners, as they tune in to the two Koreas.

Ironically, despite their political differences, Koreans are an extremely homogeneous people. With their ancient origins traced from the Koryo and Choson people, for thousands of years Koreans fought off invasions from the Chinese and Mongols to the north and the Japanese to the east. This siege mentality resulted in the country being cut off from the western world into a famed and mythic "hermit kingdom."

At the turn of the century, Korea was rudely awakened from its isolation; by 1910, the country was absorbed into the Japanese empire until liberation on August 15, 1945. After World War Two, Koreans were still united by their sense of national identity but divided ideologically and politically into two parts by American and Soviet forces. This division led to the founding of the Republic of Korea (also known as South Korea), and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (also known as North Korea).

Increasingly, the rival Koreas faced off against each other verbally, and in 1950 war was unleashed by North Korean troops when they invaded South Korea with logistical help from the Soviet Union. The resulting conflict caused the deaths of over a million Korean, Chinese, American, and UN soldiers. It ended in stalemate three years later and left both countries devastated. During the Korean War, the two rival services asserted themselves and established shortwave as an integral part of broadcasting in both Koreas.

Yet, despite the obstacles involved, for DXers who are looking for a challenge in confirming reception reports, Radio Pyongyang offers a unique opportunity to obtain a rare QSL. However, because of its programming style, Radio Pyongyang may only be of interest for shortwave listeners who want to hear rarely found information about North Korea.

To obtain the service's publication *Radio Pyongyang*, a QSL, or any of its free souvenirs, such as pennants, calendars, pins, and artistic prints, the address to write to is: Radio Pyongyang, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Pyongyang, People's Republic of Korea.

KBS Republic of Korea



Like Radio Pyongyang, Radio Korea evolved into its modern form during the Korean War period. Yet, the two services' similarities are few and their differences are as wide as the ideological gulf that now divides the two countries.

Called Radio Korea, a name which was changed from the Voice of Free Korea in 1973, the service broadcasts in 12 different languages: Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian, Indonesian, Arabic, German, Portuguese, and Italian. It delivers a total of 127 hours of programming on 20 shortwave and two mediumwave frequencies daily. From the Korean Broadcasting Service's studios in Seoul (the external service's parent company), Radio Korea produces a variety of programs, including news, commentary, and features that present international listeners with in-depth information about life in South Korea.

In contrast to the problems in North Korea, South Korea is a relatively dynamic and prosperous country. Known as one of the "dragons" of Asia (a term describing newly industrialized countries such as Singapore and Taiwan), South Korea has recently emerged from over 40 years of authoritarian rule into what is now a budding democracy with a booming economy to match. This new awakening was symbolized by the 1988 Summer Olympic extravaganza and by the election of President Kim Young Sam, who is democratizing the government and changing many authoritarian laws—such as the law that banned ownership of shortwave radios in South Korea!

Radio Korea's English service is celebrating 40 years of existence and was the service's first non-Korean language broadcast. To keep track of the rapidly changing aspects of contemporary Korean society, the service strives to cover news from an objective point of view with in-depth analysis of major current events. Its goal is to accurately and promptly convey to overseas listeners information on Korea's social, eco-

nomie, and cultural scene, as well as providing a view on the global developments affecting the nation.

Despite having only three full-time staff members, Chae Hong-Pyo, Kim Pyung-Ryul, and Koog Soon-Yup, the service offers a wide variety of features including *Seoul Calling*, which focuses on Korean culture and artistic activities, lifestyles, sports, and interviews. It is designed to provide listeners with an understanding of things uniquely Korean. *Tales from the Past* provides listeners information about Korea's 5,000 year-old history through anecdotal accounts. *Pulse of Korea* is a long-standing program that gives a comprehensive look at the major developments in Korea.

Like North Korea, South Korea still hopes for eventual reunification. In its program *Forward to Reunification*, listeners can hear South Korean perspectives on this issue. Radio Korea also offers two music programs including *Echoes of Korean Music* and *Let's Sing Together*, which deal with traditional and contemporary pop music.

The external service also puts a heavy emphasis on promoting international friendship and understanding. To accomplish this objective, programs such as *Listener's Forum*, *Pen Pal Corner*, *Quiz Show*, and *Writing Contest Special*, have been developed to encourage an international exchange of viewpoints and increase audience exposure to different cultures on a personal level.

Being a Korean service, Radio Korea also seeks to provide the millions of Korean expatriates with a link to their homeland. In the United States, Radio Korea's broadcasts are extremely popular among the Korean-American community. Maria Chang, Assistant Director of the Korean Cultural Center in Potomac, Maryland, commented that "almost everyone she knows



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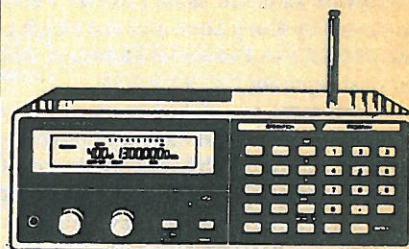
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The service has set a goal of "being the friendliest shortwave radio in the world."

has a shortwave radio in order to pick up the broadcasts." She added, "The broadcasts help many people keep in touch with the latest news in Korea...they also provide a cultural link by the many Korean songs they play."

With its programs *DX Report* and *Technical Report*, Radio Korea also provides a number of features of special interest to DXers. *DX Report* is the sole effort of William Mathews, who produces the weekly, eight minute program from Ohio. Presenting updated information on shortwave broadcasts and frequencies gathered from newspaper articles, shortwave publications, and listeners around the world, *DX Corner* is unique, because it is produced by a DXer to meet the information needs of radio hobbyists. For listeners who desire the frequency information mentioned on *DX Corner* in print, Radio Korea also provides a written synopsis for free.

If you're a novice DXer, *Technical Report* is a program that should not be missed. Containing information and inside tips on how to purchase and set up shortwave receivers, assemble antennas, prepare reception reports, and write correspondence to international broadcasters, *Technical Report* is designed to "fine-tune" the skills of new radio hobbyists.

Radio Korea also produces a number of programs that are designed to interact with its worldwide audience. Both *Listener Feedback*, co-hosted by Koog Soon-yup and Mitch Lazar, and *From Us to You* air on Saturdays and play musical requests.

Ironically, one of the biggest audiences for Radio Korea's English language programming is located inside South Korea. With over 40,000 American troops stationed throughout the country, Radio Korea's medium wave broadcasts are very much in demand. One enthusiastic listener is Jim Smith of Baltimore, MD. While stationed at ROK Air Force Base in Kusun during the early 80's, Smith started listening to the broadcasts of Radio Korea. Recalling his experiences, Smith stated, "Their broadcasts enhanced my understanding of the people and culture of Korea and Asia in general...News and analysis about Asia was my favorite topic." The impact of Smith's experience was so great that today he is an enthusiastic shortwave listener who continues to listen to Radio Korea and is studying to receive his MA in Asian Studies.

To keep listeners like Jim Smith tuned to Radio Korea, the service has set a goal of "being the friendliest shortwave radio in the world." To accomplish this objective, Radio Korea has established an audience service, which provides listeners with materials ranging from program guides and stickers to publications about the country. In addition, for listeners who are interested in visiting the Radio Korea's headquarters, the audience service has established a special tour that informs Radio Korea's listeners about the step by step process of producing programming.

So far the investment in unique programming and listener interaction has increased Radio Korea's audience. This new popularity is reflected in the 12,000 letters it receives each month from over 120 countries. Additionally, the popularity of Radio Korea among shortwave listeners can also be measured by the 65 listener clubs that have spontaneously formed in over 24 different countries.

With bigger audiences, the demand for greater reception quality has also increased. In response, Radio Korea has added a daily relay from Radio Canada International's transmitters in Sackville and is in the process of negotiating with the BBC World Service for additional relays of its signal.

For DXers interested in confirming reception reports, Radio Korea offers ample incentive to listen often. In addition to offering four different QSLs each year, the service also issues three special verification cards. All reception reports should contain standard QSL information such as time, frequency, signal strength and program details. Mail these reports to: Radio Korea, 18 Yoido-dong, Youngpungpo-ku, 150-790 Seoul, Republic of Korea.

In addition to actively seeking relay agreements with other broadcasters, Radio Korea is now focusing its energies on broadcasts to Eastern Europe and other former socialist countries. At a time of cutbacks by many European broadcasters, Radio Korea's commitment in resources and programming to shortwave broadcasting stands out, as the service is quietly establishing a reputation as a growing international broadcaster.

Liberty Broadcast Service

In addition to Radio Korea, KBS also provides an additional Korean-language service. Called the Liberty Program Service, the broadcaster is unique in its goal of uniting divided families through programming aimed at Koreans living in the North, in China and throughout the former Soviet Union.

Typical examples of programming on the Liberty Program Service include segments containing the latest news about Korea and the broadcast of audience letters pleading for information about long lost relatives, who were separated during the Korean War or under Japanese occupation. Not unusual are heart-rending pleas, like one written by a South Korean resident, stating, "I still anxiously await news about my father, who has not been heard from since he left for China in 1938," or another who wrote, "I am searching for the whereabouts of my younger sister Kim Il-yong, from whom I was separated when she was four years old...I have not heard from her since, and do not know if she is still alive. Whoever has news of my sister, please contact me."

The service's programming is transmitted on 14 medium wave and shortwave frequencies; however, many of its broadcasts have been jammed by North Korea. We were unable to verify specific frequencies. It is probable that R. Liberty uses Radio Korea transmitters. Certainly, such a DX catch would present a unique QSLing opportunity.

Stay Tuned

Despite their Cold War division, the forces of change are being felt in the two Koreas. Major events, such as the Olympic Games in 1988, joint South Korean/U.S. military exercises, and the recent UN/North Korean stand off concerning inspection of nuclear facilities, periodically increase the tension between the two Koreas. Shortwave listeners can tune in to the latest news from two different perspectives, along with a common 5,000 year old culture from these divided yet dynamic countries on the Korean Peninsula.

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